

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

JAN 2 3 2004

The Honorable Duncan Hunter Chairman, Committee on Armed Services United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C., § 2342(b), the Department of Defense has determined, after consultation with the Department of State, that it is in the national security interest of the United States to designate Lebanon as eligible for the negotiation of an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with the Department of Defense (DoD).

The ACSA with Lebanon will benefit DoD commands and forces. This agreement will provide increased interoperability between the military of Lebanon and the United States and enhance the Theater Combatant Commander's Theater Engagement Plan.

Sincerely,

A. Volkman

Director, International Cooperation

cc:

The Honorable Ike Skelton Ranking Minority Member

